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folded sheets into a booklet for binding and an inverting mechanism for inverting the folded sheet and placing the folded sheet onto the saddle with the peak of the fold in the sheet pointing upward.

[0010] In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a method of folding and accumulating sheets into a booklet, comprises (a) folding a sheet in preparation for assembling the sheet into a booklet, (b) inverting the sheet and placing the inverted sheet onto a saddle with a peak of a fold in the sheet pointing upward, (c) repeating steps (a) and (b) with a plurality of sheets to form a stack of folded sheets on the saddle, and (d) binding the stack of sheets on the saddle to form a booklet.

Brief Description of the Drawing Figures

[0011] The invention will now be described in greater detail with reference to the preferred embodiments illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which like elements bear like reference numerals, and wherein:

[0012] FIGS. 1A-1D are sequential side views of a sheet folding and accumulation system.

[0013] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a portion of the system of FIGS. 1A-1D illustrating an inverting mechanism and saddle.

[0014] FIG. 3A-3D are sequential side views of an alternative sheet folding and accumulation system.

[0015] FIG. 4 is a side view of a portion of a sheet folding and accumulation system illustrating a belt driven inverting mechanism.

[0016] FIG. 5 is a side view of a portion of a sheet folding and accumulation system illustrating a gear and rack driven inverting mechanism.

25 Detailed Description of the Invention

[0017] A sheet folding and accumulation system is illustrated in FIGS. 1A-1D which inverts folded sheets onto a saddle where the sheets are accumulated and

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